

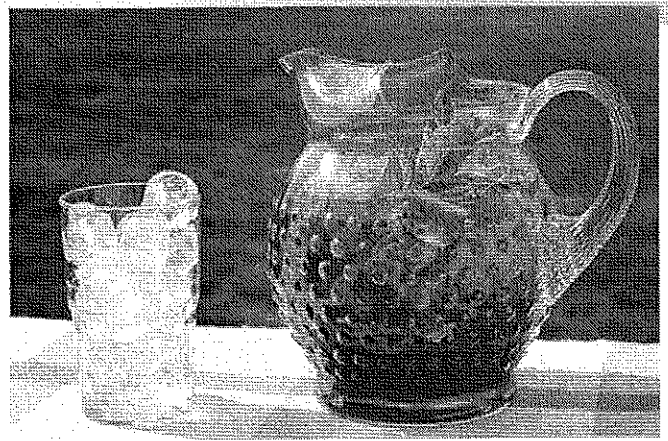
2010 Summer Library
Program Workshop

Decorations and
Displays

Make a Splash, Read!

Yes, I know it's a picture of a
pitcher of iced tea and has
nothing to do with the theme.

I'm southern, sue me.



Pick a Theme and Stick to It

It doesn't take a rocket scientist or a 20 year veteran in the children's department to tell you how to decorate for this year's theme. I have, however, seen libraries where there were so many different kinds of decorations that you couldn't tell which theme they had chosen. For example, if you choose to put out Adirondack chairs and beach umbrellas, don't put a pirate ship near by. If you decide to use sailing ships as a theme, a plastic blow up pool would seem out of place. Raindrops and surfboards don't really go all that well together either.

If you choose more than one type of water-based theme,

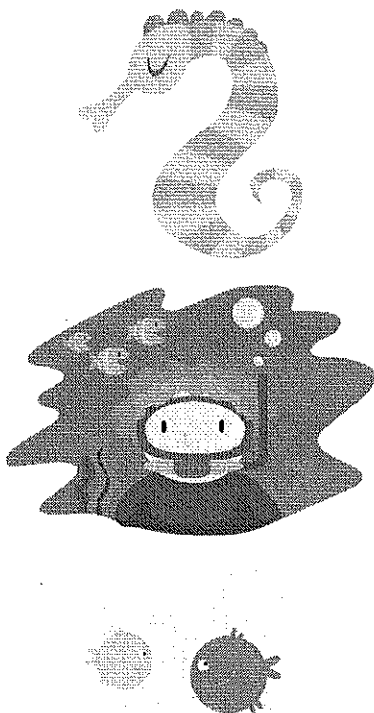
make sure you spread them out across your library. Even if you choose not to participate in the adult summer reading program that follows this year's theme, don't forget to decorate the adult section as well as your children's department. Just because they aren't part of the program doesn't mean they don't want to see that the whole library has the same spirit.

If you choose to go out on your own with a different theme this year, do it with gusto. A summer program series without enthusiasm might as well not happen.

If you wait until the end of

June to begin programming, be sure to get decorations up by the first of that month to stir interest with those kids that may disappear once school is out for the summer.

As a rule, my summer is booked by May 1, brochures out to the schools by May 15, school visits immediately after brochures, and we begin registration by June 1. Programs actually begin the last weekend in June. Everyone does things differently, just find the system that works best for you. If you find a pattern that works and stick with it year after year, families know what to expect and can look forward to the summer program schedule.



Egg Cartons cut in half make great tackle boxes for story time crafts. Paperclips for hooks, yarn for fishing line, corks, gummy worms for bait, gold fish crackers for the day's catch, and an empty spot for the "one that got away." Don't forget the fishing license!

Oops, I'm supposed to be talking about decorations and displays. So put one on the circ desk to show off! With books about fish!

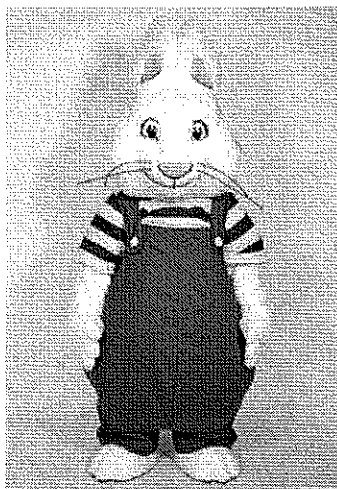
Where to Find Great Stuff

www.wallies.com

Peel and stick vinyl wall decorations that won't hurt your walls. We bought the ABC's for our bathroom walls and it looks fabulous!

[http://
kidsthemebed-
rooms.com/
underwater/ocean-fish-
theme-decorating-
ideas.htm](http://kidsthemebed-rooms.com/underwater/ocean-fish-theme-decorating-ideas.htm)

Yes, I know it's long and no, I have no idea how I found it. Great fish pillows and glow in the dark jelly-fish light. I want the castle bed! So if I'm on anyone's Christmas list, that would be a great choice.



Okay, technically not a decoration, but well worth the visit to www.costumespecialists.com

Max can visit your library for \$140.

It's a 42 Pound Bunny in Overalls!

More than 300 kids will never forget they met Rosemary Well's Max at the Kellogg Hubbard Library last week. Bennington Library just had a visit from Frog and Toad. The costumes range from \$140-\$280 and you keep them 7-10 days. The company makes all the shipping arrangements. Wear the costume for story time,

take it to the schools, share the cost with another library if the cost is beyond your budget. The PR will last as long as the kids remember how much fun they had with their favorite story time character at the library.

Costume Specialists has a number of characters available including Olivia, Lyle the Crocodile, Mouse from

"If You Give a Mouse a Cookie," Stella Luna, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, and many more.

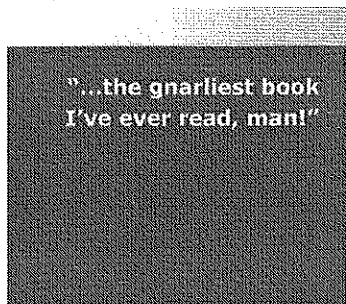


Hanging 10

Use an old ironing board, paint it to look like a surfboard and hang a large blue tarp so it covers one wall and part of the floor. Kids can pose for pictures on the board or stand beside it. Surfs Up! Or Hang 10...one picture for every

10 books read. You could even do surfer reviews or "The Surf Report" as a way of spreading the word about a great book. For example, "Dude! This book called "Andrew Henry's Meadow" by Doris Burn was the

gnarliest book, I've ever read, man! The pics were awesome and the detail just blew me out of the water dude! And I thought, WOW! It's a picture book man! How could a little book be so awesome? You know where I'm at dude?"



If you can't come up with a great idea for summer decorating, CHEAT!

For the Eternally Lazy or Brilliant, Your Choice

If you have a small space with limited area to display or decorate, simply use your promotional material to decorate. Make great posters of each event and prominently display those. And just because the theme is water, not every event

has to match the theme. KHL is scaling back this year. We're doing six major events, three of which we do every summer anyway. Staffing is an issue this year, so we're making due and no one will be the wiser. There's always a

4th of July Lawn Party, Tie Dye Day, and Stuffed Animal Sleepover. We've booked a puppet show, a rock band, all we need is one more and we're done!

More Stuff, Matey

www.talklikeapirate.com

The site that goes along with the day. (September 19) Lots of funny stuff and links to other funny stuff.

www.talklikeapirateday.com

Not associated with the day, but has a really cool translator. You can type in what you want to say and the website will translate it into pirate speak for you. It's mildly amusing the first one or

two times you do it. The kids will love it.

And then there's

www.piratenamgenerator.net

This site informed me that my pirate name is Pink Edith Flanagan from the ship The Cruel Sea. I liked it. There is certainly more than one pirate name generator on line and, of course, you can change you Facebook language to pirate for the summer.

Pirate Maps

Cut a rectangle from brown mailing paper. Draw on with permanent ink, crumble, wet down, and lay out to dry.

Use colorful sharpies for a great look!



Pirate Maps make great decorations! And they are easy to make from mailing paper rolls.

Ideas, Weird or Otherwise

You could try and find an old bathing suit. A really old suit. One that covers up everything. If you find one, let me know, I love everything covered up! I'd bet kids would be surprised to see what folks used to wear into the water.

Hanging colorful fish from

the ceiling with streamers would be a quick and easy thing to do. Throw in a stand up submarine with porthole cutouts for pictures and you're done! Stand ups are another great way to decorate. If you don't want to draw your own, you can find them at

www.shindigZ.com The Luau couple is on sale for \$30. There's also a pirate pic and some fishy ones.

A dunk tank would be a cool feature for the library. You could also just keep a spray bottle of water at the circ desk and squirt people randomly. Fun!

Squirt people randomly with a squirt bottle full of water. What could be more fun than that?

Other Random Thoughts

Decorate with whales and show "Star Trek 4: The Voyage Home."

Put glasses half full of water all over the library and show "Signs."

Give everyone a pan of beans or peas to shell and

show "The Milagro Beanfield War." You could also just get the soundtrack and just enjoy the music with something nice and cold.

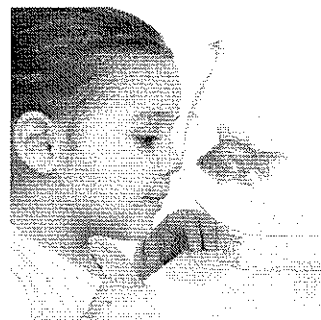
Add a water prize to the end of the summer celebration. A ticket to cruise on

Lake Champlain, a visit to the maritime museum, a trip to ECHO.

Decorate with Champ!

Use drops of water for your guessing game!

Get the fire department to open a hydrant!



2010 Summer Library Program

Primary Business Address
Your Address Line 2
Your Address Line 3
Your Address Line 4
Phone: 555-555-5555
Fax: 555-555-5555
E-mail: someone@example.com

We're on the Web!

example.com

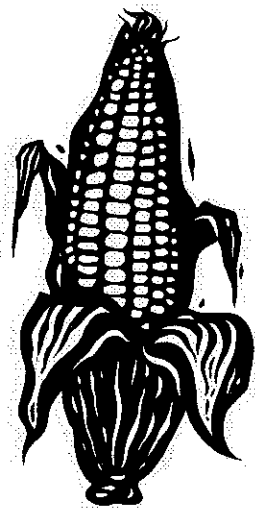
Your business tag line here.



This would be a good place to insert a short paragraph about your organization. It might include the purpose of the organization, its mission, founding date, and a brief history. You could also include a brief list of the types of products, services, or programs your organization offers, the geographic area covered (for example, western U.S. or European markets), and a profile of the types of customers or members served.

It would also be useful to include a contact name for readers who want more information about the organization.

Back Page Story Headline



Caption describing picture or graphic.

This story can fit 175-225 words.

If your newsletter is folded and mailed, this story will appear on the back. So, it's a good idea to make it easy to read at a glance.

A question and answer session is a good way to quickly capture the attention of readers. You can either compile questions that you've received since the last edition or you can summarize some generic questions that are frequently asked about your organization.

A listing of names and titles of managers in your organization

is a good way to give your newsletter a personal touch. If your organization is small, you may want to list the names of all employees.

If you have any prices of standard products or services, you can include a listing of those here. You may want to refer your readers to any other forms of communication that you've created for your organization.

You can also use this space to remind readers to mark their calendars for a regular event, such as a breakfast meeting for vendors every third Tuesday of the month, or a biannual char-

ity auction.

If space is available, this is a good place to insert a clip art image or some other graphic.